IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An image reading apparatus comprising:

a reading part ~~reading~~ configured to read an original;

a time measuring part ~~being able~~ configured to measure different times selectively;
and

a defining part ~~determining separation of~~ configured to determine a time between
reading successive sheets of the original read by said reading part,

wherein said time measuring part selects a time to be measured according to a
predetermined condition, and said defining part determines whether sheets of the original are
part of a same document based on the time between reading the ~~separation~~ successive of
sheets of the original ~~when~~ and whether the selected time has elapsed without an operation
concerning a reading operation being re-started after the reading operation of said reading
part is once stopped.

Claim 2 (Original): The image reading apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said
predetermined condition comprises a condition of using the apparatus.

Claim 3 (Original): The image reading apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein said
condition of using the apparatus comprises a function of the apparatus which is executed by
reading the original.

Claim 4 (Original): The image reading apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein said
function of the apparatus is at least one of a facsimile transmission function, a photocopying
function and a scanning function.

Claim 5 (Original): The image reading apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein said condition of using the apparatus is either one of a case where an automatic original feeding function is used and a case where the automatic original feeding function is not used and a user manually feeds the original.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The image reading apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein the time measured by the time measuring part is set ~~short~~ to be shorter in the case where the automatic original feeding function is used ~~but long in~~ compared to the case where a user manually feeds the original.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The image reading apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein, when operation of changing from a condition in which the automatic original feeding function is used to a condition in which the original is fed manually is detected during the measurement of the time of the case of using the automatic original feeding function by said time measuring part, said defining part determines that the measurement has finished even during the measurement of said time~~, and that the separation of sheets of the original occurs~~.

Claim 8 (Original): The image reading apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein, when an operation of again manually feeding the original is detected during measurement of the time of the case of manually feeding the original by said time measuring part, said time measuring part restarts the measurement of said time.

Claim 9 (Original): The image reading apparatus as claimed in 1, wherein measurement of the time by said time measuring part is stopped by a predetermined operation.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The image reading apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a registering part for previously registering, for the original to be read, an indication of the original as a plurality of documents,

wherein image data read by said reading part from the original is treated as respective ones of the plurality of documents registered by said registering part.

Claim 11 (Original): The image reading apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein said registering part is used for registering document information for each of the plurality of documents, and adds the document information to the image data for each document.

Claim 12 (Original): The image reading apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the document information comprises at least one of a reading condition, user information and storage information.

Claim 13 (Original): The image reading apparatus as claimed in claim 10, further comprising a display part displaying the contents registered by said registering part during the reading operation by said reading part.

Claim 14 (Original): The image reading apparatus as claimed in claim 10, further comprising:

a display part displaying the contents registered by said registering part after the reading operation by said reading part; and

a confirming/editing part for confirming/editing the registered contents viewing them displayed by said displaying part.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The image reading apparatus as claimed in claim 1, treating one or a plurality of sheets of original as one document, comprising:

a display part displaying contents comprising separation of sheets of the original determined by said time measuring part and defining part to be part of a same document, as temporary registered contents; and

a confirming/editing part for confirming/editing the temporary registered contents viewing them displayed by said displaying part.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The image reading apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein said confirming/editing part is used for registering document information for each document of the plurality of document, and adding the document information to the image data for each document.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The image reading apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein the document information comprises at least one of a reading condition, user information and storage information.

Claims 18-52 (Canceled).

Claim 53 (Currently Amended): An image reading method comprising the steps of:

a) reading <u>an</u> original;

b) measuring different times selectively; and

c) determining ~~separation of~~ <u>a time between reading successive</u> sheets of the original read by said ~~step~~ <u>reading</u> a),

wherein said ~~step~~ <u>measuring</u> b) selects a time to be measured according to a predetermined condition, and said ~~step~~ <u>determining</u> c) determines <u>whether sheets of the original are part of a same document based on time between reading</u> the ~~separation of~~ <u>successive</u> sheets of the original ~~when~~ <u>and whether</u> the selected time has elapsed without an operation concerning a reading operation being restarted after the reading operation of said step a) is once stopped.

Claim 54 (Original): The image reading method as claimed in claim 53, wherein said predetermined condition comprises a condition of using an apparatus to be used.

Claim 55 (Original): The image reading method as claimed in claim 54, wherein said condition of using the apparatus comprises a function of the apparatus which is executed by reading the original.

Claim 56 (Original): The image reading method as claimed in claim 55, wherein said function of the apparatus is at least one of a facsimile transmission function, a photocopying function and a scanning function.

Claim 57 (Original): The image reading method as claimed in claim 54, wherein said condition of using the apparatus is either one of a case where an automatic original feeding

function is used and a case where the automatic original feeding function is not used and a user manually feeds the original.

Claim 58 (Currently Amended): The image reading method as claimed in claim 57, wherein the time measured by said ~~step~~ measuring b) is set ~~short~~ to be shorter in the case where the automatic original feeding function ~~is used but long in~~ compared to the case where a user manually feeds the original.

Claim 59 (Currently Amended): The image reading method as claimed in claim 57, wherein, when operation of changing from a condition in which the automatic original feeding function is used to a condition in which the original is fed manually is detected during the measurement of the time of the case of using the automatic original feeding function by ~~said~~ measuring b), said ~~step~~ determining c) determines that the measurement has finished even during the measurement of said time~~, and that the separation of sheets of the original occurs~~.

Claim 60 (Currently Amended): The image reading method as claimed in claim 57, wherein, when an operation of again manually feeding the original is detected during measurement of the time of the case of manually feeding the original by said ~~step~~ measuring b), said ~~step~~ measuring b) re-starts the measurement of said time.

Claim 61 (Currently Amended): The image reading method as claimed in 53, wherein measurement of the time by said ~~step~~ measuring b) is stopped by a predetermined operation.

Claim 62 (Currently Amended): The image reading method as claimed in claim 53, further comprising ~~the step~~ d) previously registering, for the original to be read, <u>an indication of the original</u> as a plurality of documents,

wherein image data read by said ~~step~~ <u>reading</u> a) from the original is treated as respective ones of the plurality of documents registered by said ~~step~~ <u>previously registering</u> d).

Claim 63 (Currently Amended): The image reading method as claimed in claim 62, wherein said ~~step~~ <u>previously registering</u> d) registers document information for each of the plurality of documents, and adds the document information to the image data for each document.

Claim 64 (Original): The image reading method as claimed in claim 63, wherein the document information comprises at least one of a reading condition, user information and storage information.

Claim 65 (Currently Amended): The image reading method as claimed in claim 62, further comprising ~~the step~~ e) displaying the contents registered by said ~~step~~ <u>previously registering</u> d) during the reading operation by said ~~step~~ <u>reading</u> a).

Claim 66 (Currently Amended): The image reading method as claimed in claim 62, further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

e) displaying the contents registered by said ~~step~~ <u>previously registering</u> d) after the reading operation by ~~step~~ <u>reading</u> a); and

f) confirming/editing the registered contents viewing them displayed by said ~~step~~ <u>displaying</u> e).

Claim 67 (Currently Amended): The image reading method as claimed in claim 53, treating one or a plurality of sheets of original as one document, comprising the steps of:

d) displaying contents comprising separation of sheets of the original determined by said steps measuring b) and c) determining to be part of a same document, as temporary registered contents of the same document; and

e) confirming/editing the temporary registered contents viewing them displayed by said step displaying d).

Claim 68 (Currently Amended): The image reading method as claimed in claim 67, wherein said step confirming/editing e) registers document information for each document of the plurality of document, and adds the document information to the image data for each document.

Claim 69 (Original): The image reading method as claimed in claim 68, wherein the document information comprises at least one of a reading condition, user information and storage information.

Claims 70-104 (Canceled).